

State Fire Marshal

Bulletin 11

E-85 Fuel Dispensers

Alternative fuels are beginning to make a larger impact on our daily lives. Dispensing and use of these fuels, many flammable and combustible liquids, needs to be done safely to ensure few risks to human health, safety, welfare and the environment.

The State of Michigan has become aware of the lack of an approved National Standard for the dispenser and connected appurtenances involving the dispensing of E85 into a motor vehicle. At this time we are not aware of any failures within the State or even Nationwide of an E-85 dispenser. The Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will continue to work with the dispensing manufacturers industry and other State and Nationally recognized testing laboratories to ensure the continued safety of these installations.

The State Fire Marshal, The Bureau of Fire Services and the Department of Environmental Quality recommend the following procedure be implemented when discovering a new or currently in use E-85 dispensing facility:

1. Check to ensure a liquid-tight dispenser pan has been installed under the all dispensers of E-85 that are currently in use.
2. Require the facility owner/operator to produce their leak detection monthly monitoring records to ensure the dispensing system is tight, verified by a DEQ Hazardous Materials Storage Inspector (HMSI). These are required if the E-85 is being dispensed from an underground storage tank.
3. If there is any sign of leakage from the dispenser or connected tank system, the tank shall be red-tagged and may require removal of product from the tank. For local officials, you may inform the owner/operator to immediately cease dispensing and notify the DEQ, HMSI for that area or call 517-335-7211.

These recommendations will be in effect until December 1, 2008. After this date all current E-85 dispensers and new installations will be required to be listed as approved to meet National Standards for their product type. Failure to do so may result in possible enforcement action, including but not limited to red-tagging of the system.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact the BFS at (517) 241-8847 or the DEQ at 517-335-7211.

Please be advised as a recipient of this State Fire Marshal Bulletin, you are free to treat the contents as a news release in your name to the local news media or any other means of circulation.